former scheme have already taken possession of the flats by making cash down payment. DDA is taking further action for issuing revised demand letters in respect of the remaining allottees as per the ratio for cash down and hire-purchase basis as laid down in the brochures of the respective scheme.

Death due to pesticides-poisoning in the country

*272. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:
SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Pesticides take toll of 1000 each year", as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 29th July, 1987; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any steps to avoid deaths due to Pesticide-poisoning and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) The Government have come across the news item captioned "Pesticides take toll of 10,000 each year" that appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 29th July, 1987.

(b) Government is aware of the fact that the pesticides are toxic in nature and can cause death and other associated hazards due to pesticide poisoning if not handled properly. It is, therefore, the policy and the endeavour of the Government, to register only those pesticides whose efficacy and safety are proved. Being toxic in nature, pesticides have to be used judiciously in accordance with the prescribed detailed instructions and after observing well laid down safety precautions. In this strategy training of the State Government functionaries and farmers in the safe and proper handling of the pesticides has been given due emphasis.

To regulate the import, manufacture and use of insecticides an Act, known as Insecticides Act, was promulgated in 1968. Under the Insecticides Rules, 1971, framed under the said Act, detailed Guidelines have been laid down regarding the information/instructions to be printed on the labels and leaflets accompanying the container of a pesticide. These include precautions for its use, safety measures to be taken, symptoms of poisoning, first-aid measures, treatment, etc. in three languages i.e. English, Hindi and one of the regional languages. The training regarding safe handling of pesticides is imparted to the farmers by the Extension functionaries of the Government Departments as well as the pesticide manufacturers/distributors from time to time. The Central Plan Protection Training Institute at Hyderabad gives due emphasis on safe handling of pesticides in its various courses of training to the State functionaries, who in turn, give training to the farmers. The Central Plant Protection Stations and Central Surveillance Stations under the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage also adopt some villages where they hold practical demonstrations as well as impart training on safe handling of pesticides. State Governments also organise 'Krishi Melas' and 'Shivirs' where this particular aspect is given due emphasis.

The Registration Committee while granting any registration to a pesticide gives due emphasis regarding its safe formulation considering the mode of use and type of use.

Under section 26 of the Insecticides Act, the State Government have specified by Notification in the official Gazette, a person or class of persons for reporting all occurrence of poisoning (through the use of handling of

any insecticide) coming within his or their cognizance to such officer as may be specified in the said Notification.

Financial support to tractor owners by NABARD

*273. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether NABARD has drawn up a plan to extend refinance support to tractor owners in the country to undertake repairs of tractors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) and (b) In order to ensure optimum use by prolonging the economic life of tractors, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has introduced a scheme of refinance for renovation/replacement of important spare parts of tractors from 1st July, 1987. The terms and conditions for such refinance are as follows:—

Eligibility of loan

(i) Only those farmers who had purchased tractors earlier through bank finance and had fully repaid their loans will be eligible for obtaining loans for repairs of their tractors from the branches of the same bank.

(ii) The tractor for the repair of which loan is to be obtained should be more than 7 years old but should not be older than 2 years from the date of manufacture.

(iii) Bank loan for the purpose will be available once only.

(iv) The total amount of loan under the scheme to be issued by each bank should not exceed 10 percent of the allocation given to it under Farm Mechanisation Programme for that year. However, the refinance to banks for renovation/replacement/repair will be in addition to allocation for regular farm mechanisation programme.

(v) The repairs of the damages caused to tractors due to accidents will not be financed.

Extent of loan

The total loan for renovation/repairs of tractors consisting of replacement of spare parts should not exceed Rs. 25,000/- and in very exceptional cases, where the entire engine is to be replaced following the recommendations of the authorised service centre of the manufacturer or their dealer, a maximum loan of Rs. 45,000/- (being the cost of the new engine and the cost of repairs and spare parts) can be considered.

Down Payment

Down payment in respect of loans for repairing of tractors will not be less than 30 per cent of the cost of repairs.

Repayment period

Maximum period for repayment of the loan will be 5 years.

Agency for undertaking repair

(i) The tractors would be got repaired in a service centre of the authorised dealer appointed by the manufacturer of the particular make or from Agro-service centres of the State Agro-Industries Corporation.

(ii) Payment would be made by the bank directly to the service station towards the cost of the rapairs and the cost of the spare parts.

Hypothecation of the tractor

The repaired tractors covered by the loan would be got hypothecated to the financing bank and such hypothecation would be registered with the Regional Transport Authority.

Insurance

The tractors would be adequately insured and the relative policies would